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SOURCE Hsin-wen Jih-pao.

The following report on culture and education was presented to the National Committee of the CPPCC (Central People's Political Consultative Conference) on 17 June 1950 by Kuo Mo-jo, Minister of Education.

This movement began, when the Central People's government was established, as a movement of the people for self-reconstruction in a democratic fashion. It was the political foundation for cultural and educational efforts. Chairman Mao has said that only as we have a people's government can we on a national scale reconstruct our way of life free from reactionary influence which still persists in strength, and follow a new road towards socialism and Communism. This is the nature of the present movement.

1. By adopting the three great resolutions, especially the Common Program, the masses have come to see the basic difference between the old and the new China. Most of all, workers and peasants have come to feel themselves possessors of the New China. Racial unity has been strengthened. Intellectuals have revised their old ideas. The mistaken middle-of-the-road concept has been swept away.

2. The masses have made progress in distinguishing between the world's two great camps -- that of peace, led by the Soviet Union, and that of imperialist aggression headed by imperialistic US. They have come to see that the US and her running dogs are the deadly enemies of the Chinese people and are stirring up a third world war, while the great friendship of the Soviet Union has consistently refuted the shameless slanders of the reactionaries. They recognize the USSR as the great supporter of world peace, and more than 10 million have signed the Peace Appeal.

3. Among the masses and the intellectuals, labor has come to be recognized as honorable, and the working class is receiving widespread respect. In factories and mines the workers have inaugurated production contests and set new records.

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4. The concept of service to the people has gained among intellectuals and government workers. Educated persons have joined the revolution and reconstruction movements, working hard and showing a fine example of constructive activity.

The masses being thus awakened, our people's democratic dictatorship has been strengthened, national reconstruction has been forwarded, and resources for preserving world peace have been increased. This is a great victory in the ideological war.

This victory is, of course, a reflection in consciousness of the revolutionary success which is due to Chairman Mao, the government, and all who took part in the struggle.

The national learning movement has been made possible by several factors:

Political colleges and training classes have been set up enrolling at least 470,000 persons of all types, the largest number being intellectuals and students. Various political groups have been represented, Communists, democratic parties, nonpartisans, and even former reactionaries.

Indoctrination of college and middle-school teachers and students has been effected by setting up political courses in schools as soon as an area has been liberated. Such courses include history of the growth of society, economics, new democracy, etc. After such courses, 20 percent of the nation's students have joined the New Democracy Youth Corps.

Learning has been organized among workers, peasants, and city dwellers. As soon as an area was liberated, labor unions and state enterprises were established and a lively political education movement was started. With the arousing of political awareness, there came new demands for higher culture, skill, and political knowledge; therefore, night schools and leisure-time schools for workmen arose, and up to the present they have enrolled more than 500,000 persons. Among peasants, this effort took the form of winter schools, which, during the past winter and spring, enrolled 10 million persons. There were 14,000 urban schools, with nearly 700,000 pupils.

Great strides have been made in literature, drama, radio, publications, etc. In the first 3 months of this year, more than a million copies of revolutionary works were issued. Sociological lectures on the People's Radio in the last 2 months have linked together 206 organized units of listeners covering 20 provinces. The play Red Flag Song had a continuous run of more than 100 performances in Shanghai, setting a record. These are just a few examples. Much has been accomplished but there remains yet much more to be done under the Common Program.

B. Nation-Wide Cultural Reconstruction

Our national inheritance here leaves much to be desired. Even in the older liberated areas the culture and education work, although well done, is still insufficient. This topic will be treated under six heads: education, health, science, art, press, and publications.

1. Education

According to incomplete data, there are in the whole nation: 227 colleges and universities with 134,000 students, 3,690 middle schools with 1,090,000 students, and 212,890 elementary schools with 16 million students. These figures do not include political colleges and classes.

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Distinguishing between government and private institutions, the former comprise 61 percent of the higher institutions, the latter 39. Private schools are also found in considerable proportion among the middle and elementary institutions. Where land reform is finished, and the economy partially restored, the number of students exceeds pre-liberation numbers, and the quality of the students is radically changed. In 1949, enrollment in the Northeast had increased 60 percent and in North China about 50 percent over Kuomintang times. Children of the poorer classes predominated.

2. Health

Partial reports (excluding Inner Mongolia and the Southwest) give the number of government health centers of all types as 1,205, with about 30,000 beds and 28,000 workers. There are no figures for private centers. Full-fledged Western-trained doctors number 18,000; those trained in native medicine far exceed this number.

3. Science

The China Academy of Science has taken over 22 societies belonging to the former Academia Sinica and the former Peiping Research Institute. Some of these overlapped, but after reorganization, there are now in China 14 scientific research institutes, one observatory, and one industrial laboratory. Besides the 14 above-mentioned institutes there are 93 units devoted to the study of natural science, 17 science centers, and 39 instrument factories.

4. Art

There are three motion-picture studios located in the Northeast, Peiping, and Shanghai. There are 467 movie theaters; 206 state-operated, 251 private, 10 joint. Other theaters [legitimate?], excluding the Northeast, number 161 in 18 chief cities. The Northeast has 82. Cultural workers societies number about 400, with 40,000 workers.

5. Press

The nation has 624 newspapers and periodicals. Of the newspapers, 165 are dailies, 122 state-operated, and 43 private. In addition, there are 216 army papers. In May, partial figures showed 153 dailies issuing 2,600,000 copies. The nation operates 51 government and 32 private (22 of these in Shanghai) radio stations: the government stations are by far the most powerful. In news reporting, the Hsin-hua News Agency has seven branches, 46 sub-branches, among them three overseas.

6. Book Publishing

The government-owned New China Bookstore now has 887 branch stores, about 30 printing shops, with a capacity about one-fourth that of the whole nation. Private publishing houses number 244; six are jointly operated. In the three regions, Northeast, North China, and East China, in the first 3 months of 1950, all houses published 878 titles, 52 million copies. Of these, the New China Bookstore published 40 million.

The Ministry of Education has also been reorganizing and expanding activities along the following lines:

a. Furthering the Education of Workers and Peasants

After the educational conference in December 1949, short-course middle schools were started for workers and peasants. In the first half of 1950, 13 experimental schools of this type were set up. Some were set up among troops and government workers. This work will be expanded in the autumn.

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Many spare-time schools have been begun in factory districts. A recent government directive stresses this. The same objective can best be attained in rural districts by the use of winter schools. Many of these have continued as year-round schools.

b. Reforming Higher Education

The chief features are:

(1) The People's University. Drawing on Soviet experience, we have tried to fit education to real conditions, to build cadres for the nation's use. Students are carefully selected.

(2) Reconstituting the Peiping Higher Normal School with new courses and methods to prepare teachers for the nation.

(3) A conference on Higher Education, held this month, has reconstructed the scheme of higher education, welding theory and practice, to furnish well-qualified leaders for the nation. The doors have been thrown open to peasant-worker cadres.

c. Public Health Work and Disease Prevention

The Ministry of Public Health sent out this spring 395,196 vaccine ampules, sufficient for 24 million persons, of whom at least 16 million have already been treated. Not one case of smallpox appeared in Dairen, where 95 percent of the population were vaccinated. As to plague, last year it was wiped out in North Chahar and now there is a whole string of plague-prevention stations between Kalgan and Kuei-sui. When plague broke out in the Lui-chou peninsula, the Health Ministry brought 153 workers down from Manchuria to help stamp it out so our invasion troops for Hainan could escape it. We have also helped with such work in Chekiang, Fukien, Yunnan, etc. More than 4 million persons have been supplied with preventatives.

Special attention has been given to sanitation in the calamity districts of the Huang Ho basin, north Anhwei and Kiangsu, Ping-yuan, etc. It is planned to immunize 480,000 persons this year against tuberculosis.

d. Developing the Film Industry.

During 1950, we plan to make 26 story films, 17 documentary, one art, 46 newsreels, and 40 films translated from the Russian. We are helping private film companies, and by degrees reducing the distribution of the inferior British and US pictures. In the first half of this year we loaned 6 billion yuan and 220,000 Hong Kong dollars to the film industry. Progressive films have largely crowded out those from Britain and the US. We must now push the production of China-made and Soviet-translated films, to help native industry and attract larger crowds of movie-goers.

Another project in this field has been the bringing of films to troops, factories, and villages. We plan to increase the 100 film teams to 700, to have some 20 operating in each province.

e. Reconstructing the Old-Style Drama.

In this we have worked in close cooperation with playwrights, actors, and other artists belonging to the previous order. In fact, they themselves have taken an active part in remodeling plays, songs, etc., to suit the new order. Research institutes, training classes, etc. help in the transformation.

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f. Improving Newspaper Work and Strengthening Broadcast Activities

At a newspaper work conference in April, it was decided that newspapers must be in close touch with the masses and do more judging and self-criticism, fitting in with the national reconstruction and economic policies, and furnishing leadership therefor. The Peiping Jen-min Jih-pao and other important dailies are offering criticism and guidance to both government and people, thus gaining popular prestige.

Management has been put on a business basis, and distribution improved by arrangements with the post office.

In the first half of 1950 we set up one international broadcast station, and nine domestic ones; we took over six, and have five under construction. The National Newspaper Conference arranged for a national radio net, which is now being put into operation.

g. Coordinating Public and Private Publishing Enterprises

We are establishing a single system of sales outlets. The Publications Bureau is preparing to call a national conference of publishers this fall, to reform the publishing business and to overcome the present condition of being without government or plan. To provide effective distribution at low cost for all books publicly or privately published, the bureau is detaching all publishing functions from the New China Bookstore, which will become the nation-wide and sole outlet for the sale of books. This plan is being readied for execution this fall.

h. Fostering Cultural Interchange Among Related Races

For this purpose, we have prepared broadcasts in Uighur and Tibetan and are preparing some in Mongolian. We have published newspapers in Uighur, Mongol, Kazakh, and Korean languages. We have established the Sinkiang Institute, Lan-chou Racial Institute, and other schools for minority groups, and sent out photographers to take motion pictures of life in Inner Mongolia, etc. Expeditions are being organized to visit and study the Northwest and Southwest.

C. Problems in Executing Educational and Cultural Policies

The past 8 months have brought to light a number of problems.

1. In this time of rapid and tremendous change, we must take careful steps in the reform of cultural conditions, working out the Common Program, especially Article 41. Mao advises orderly change into service of the people, neither too fast nor too slow. Cultural change is a tedious process, calling for the united efforts of the patriotic intelligentsia.

2. In cultural reconstruction, we must aim for a union of theory and practice, elevation and extension. In all spheres we must tie theory to reality -- not merely in education as called for in Article 46 of the Common Program. Not only must there be high quality of education for leaders, but also for the masses.

3. In public and private cultural enterprises, we must hold to the principle of conserving the interests of both sides, as provided in the Common Program. Private efforts should not merely be helped financially, but by fostering ideological reform and progress. All our resources should be pooled to meet the people's needs, with division of labor and mutual aid. The groundwork for a united advance has already been laid for us in the Common Program. A firm material foundation has come into being through the successful efforts of the Ministry of Finance.

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At the national party conference on 6 June, Chairman Mao indicated three conditions for basic economic recovery: (1) land reform; (2) proper reorientation of trade and industry; and (3) extensive reduction in cost of government. With these fulfilled, he said, as they can be in about 3 years, we should see basic national recovery.

This is a scientific prediction which we cultural workers should bring about by striving together to fulfill the conditions. In about 3 years, we may boldly believe, educational and cultural conditions will follow the national economy into basic recovery. No difficulties can obstruct the advance of the people's business.

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